

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY AF/E:BCROGERS:JR

APPROVED BY AF/E:WBCOOTE

S/S-O:PPSARROS

AFJJBLAKE

S/CCT-AMB.HOFFACKER

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 118776

EXDIS

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SIX

FOR ADDIS:

1. APPRECIATE YOUR EFFORT WITH ACTING MININT REPORTED
REF B. BELIEVE PRESSURE SHOULD BE KEPT ON IEG TO PROVIDE,
AS MINIMUM, PROMPT FOLLOW-UP RESPONSE TO EMBASSY THAT IEG'S
OFFICIAL POSITION IS THAT IT MUST KNOW NAMES OF
PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED BEFORE IT CAN REPLY TO REQUEST,
AND WHETHER IEG PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE TENNECO TO PASS THIS
WORD TO ELF. SOME POSITIVE IEG RESPONSE NEEDED SOONEST
SINCE BURGHER MUST INFORM ZEIN OF FACT BEFORE JUNE 7
DEADLINE IMPOSED PARA 8 REF A.

FOR ADDIS AND KHARTOUM:

2. BELIEVE "NEW EFFORT" OF GOVGEN (PARA 4 OF REF B), AT
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LEAST WHILE TENNECO NEGOTIATIONS IN KHARTOUM STILL IN PRO-

GRESS, WOULD BE UNHELPFUL AND COULD CONCEIVABLY FURTHER
DELAY ANY PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS. IN ANY CASE, IT IS
QUITE POSSIBLE, AND FULLY UNDERSTANDABLE, THAT IEG WILL
DEMAND TO BE PART (VISIBLE OR INVISIBLE) OF ANY
NEGOTIATIONS FOR RELEASE OF ELF POLITICAL PRISONERS IF SUCH
COMES TO PASS. THUS, IN EFFORT TO AVOID ANY PREMATURE

INITIATIVE BY IEG TO UTILIZE OTHER CHANNELS, THERE MIGHT
BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN, IF NECESSARY, INFORMING IEG
CONFIDENTIALLY THAT TENNECO IS PRESENTLY NEGOTIATING
WITH ELF THROUGH CHANNEL ESTABLISHED IN KHARTOUM, WHICH
SHOWS SIGN OF BEING RELIABLE ONE. UNLESS IEG HAS
SUCH INFORMATION, IT SEEMS TO US THERE IS NOT MUCH
CHANCE OF IEG'S PERMITTING TENNCO TO CONVEY EVEN
MINIMAL STATEMENT ON ITS BEHALF.

3. AT SOME POINT SOON IEG MAY HAVE TO BE BROUGHT MORE
FULLY INTO NEGOTIATIONS AND IEG ALREADY PRESSING
FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THEM (CF. PARA 4 REF B). WOULD
THEREFORE APPRECIATE YOUR RESPECTIVE VIEWS ON WHAT
EFFECT WOULD BE ON GOS AND IEG VIS A VIS BILATERAL
RELATIONS BOTH WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH USG IF IEG
BECAME AWARE PRIVATELY OF LOCUS ZEIN/TENNECO
NEGOTIATIONS. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL PRISONERS, HOSTAGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 JUN 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE118776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BCROGERS:JR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740143-0320
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740671/aaaacjnh.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 APR 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <30 JUL 2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TENNECO SIX FOR ADDIS
TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET, ELF, TENNECO SIX, IEG
To: ADDIS ABABA KHARTOUM
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005